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The Church of the Covenant

Fifteenth and Market Streets

Wilmington, N. C.

Organized January 6, 1918

Dedicated March 3, 1918

Acting Pastor

Rev. Marion S. Huske

Elders

Mr. H. Lacy Hunt
Mr. W. A. Woods
Mr. C. W. Woodward
Mr. F. L. Pearsall
Mr. Joseph Sharrock
Mr. W. D. McCraig

Deacons

Mr. W. W. Love
Mr. J. F. Mann
Mr. L. E. Hall
Mr. J. H. Davis
Mr. W. S. Johnson
Mr. W. P. Sprunt
Mr. O. L. Browne
Mr. C. P. Gorman
R. C. Jones
Mr. J. O. Carr

"*Have respect therefore to the prayer of thy servant, and to his supplication, O Lord my God, to hearken unto the cry and the prayer which thy servant prayeth before thee: That thine eyes may be open upon this house day and night.*—II. Chronicles, 6:19-20."

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Morning Service

Organ Prelude.

Doxology.

Invocation.

Anthem—"O Power Eternal" . . . . . *Luzzi*

Hymn No. 61 . . . . . "Come Thou Almighty King"

Psalter Selection No. 29. Congregation standing.

"Gloria."

Reading of Scripture.

Morning Prayer.

Offertory—"Praise the Lord, O Jerusalem" . . *Maunder*

Hymn No. 304 . . . . "The Church's One Foundation"

Dedication Sermon . . Rev. Alexander Sprunt, D. D.
Pastor First Presbyterian Church, Charleston, S. C.

"The Covenanting God" *Matthew 22-32.*

Prayer.

"Significance of the Memorial Window . Mr. James Sprunt

Hymn No. 672 . . "Founded on Thee, Our Only Lord"

Benediction.

Organ Postlude.

H22

Evening Service

Organ Prelude.

Hymn No. 300 . . . . . "I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord"

Psalter Selection No. 51. Congregation standing.

Reading of Scripture.

Prayer.

Offertory

Hymn No. 301 . . "Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken"

Address—"Steps Leading Up to the Organization of the Church of the Covenant" . Rev. Jno. M. Wells, D. D.

Address—"The Possibilities of a New Church" . . . . . Rev. Andrew J. Howell

Anthem

Address—"Reflex Blessings to Older Churches" . . Rev. Alexander D. McClure, D. D.

Address

Rev. Alexander Sprunt, D. D.

Prayer.

Hymn No. 345 . . . . "Blest Be the Tie That Binds"

Benediction.

Organ Postlude.

Steps Leading Up to the Organization of the Church of the Covenant

More than fifteen years ago, at a meeting of the Session of the First Presbyterian Church, the matter of the establishment of a church in the eastern section of our city was the subject of prayerful thought and discussion.

By some, the necessity was then thought to be remote, but those with a vision of the future spoke for such action as would prepare the way for the time when such a church must be organized.

Colonel Walker Taylor, a Ruling Elder of the First Church, on December 27, 1911, at the request of the Pastor, purchased a corner lot at Fifteenth and Market Streets, with a view of holding it until such a church as had been considered might be organized.

In the years 1913–1914 a very rapid extension of our city to the eastward so increased the population of this section, that the need for a church and Sunday School was admitted.

At this time our Heavenly Father put in the hearts of those through whose love and devotion this church was made possible, the desire to accomplish this end and a small number of Presbyterians then residing in this part of our city were commissioned to secure a suitable site for this church.

After mature consideration it was decided the location selected years before was the best for many reasons, and this lot was purchased November 22, 1915.

As the plans for this church were developed it was found the original ground would not accommodate the structure; therefore, a second lot to the west of the property was acquired April 4, 1916.

Plans and specifications were prepared and building was begun in summer of 1916. The corner-stone was laid January 6, 1917, with appropriate services.

The following sketch of the lives of Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Sprunt was prepared for this occasion:

This Cornerstone Was Laid January Sixth, 1917

This building, the Church of the Covenant, was erected by James Sprunt and William H. Sprunt, as a memorial of their parents, Alexander and Jane

Dalziel Sprunt. Both these parents were born and reared in Scotland. Immediately after their marriage, they made their home at Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, where Mr. Sprunt was a Ruling Elder in the Presbyterian Church, as three generations of his ancestors had been in their home churches in Scotland. Mrs. Jane Dalziel Sprunt's family record showed five succeeding generations of Ruling Elders in Scotland.

He was a member of the large mercantile firm of Reed, Irving & Co., of London and Port-of-Spain, and held the civil office of Queen's Commissioner or Magistrate.

Later, they spent several years in England and Scotland, and in 1851 came to America, and made their home in Wilmington, N. C. Here they identified themselves with the First Presbyterian Church, in which Mr. Sprunt was made a Ruling Elder. In 1858 they became charter members of the Second Presbyterian Church, which was a colony from the First Church, and for several years worshipped in a little building on Chestnut Street, between Seventh and Eighth Streets. They contributed largely to the growth and development of this colony, which afterwards became St. Andrews Church. This is now a large and growing congregation, occupying the large building on the corner of Fourth and Campbell Streets. In connection with this church is a beautiful and well-equipped building for Sunday School and social work, given by William H. Sprunt as a memorial of his parents and other founders of the church.

In 1865, after the close of the War Between the States, Mr. Sprunt founded the business of the present cotton exporting house of Alexander Sprunt & Son, which has its main office in Wilmington, with six branch offices in the United States and Europe.

Mr. and Mrs. Sprunt brought five children with them to America, and four others were born to them in Wilmington. The oldest child, Margaret Tannahill, was married in April, 1871, to B. F. Hall, of Wilmington, and after forty-three years of happy married life, died in April, 1914, leaving her husband and seven children to cherish the sweet memory of her unselfish and holy life.

At the date of the laying of this corner-stone the other eight children are still living, inheritors of the blessings of their Godly parents, and bringing forth the fruits of righteousness from the seed sown in their youthful minds. In the order of their ages, they are as follows:

James Sprunt.

Mrs. Mary Sprunt Wood (widow of the beloved physician, Dr. Thomas F. Wood), both of Wilmington, N. C.

John D. Sprunt, Berkhampstead, England.

Rev. Alexander Sprunt, D.D., Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, of Charleston, S. C.

T. E. Sprunt, William H. Sprunt and Mrs. Anna Sprunt Munds, of Wilmington, N. C.

Mrs. Jeanie Sprunt Holmes, of Washington, D. C., widow of Dr. J. A. Holmes, the founder and first Director of the United States Bureau of Mines.

Besides these eight children, there are thirty-three grandchildren and twenty great-grandchildren, all baptized members, and, all who are over twelve years of age, communing members of the Presbyterian Church, and giving promise of exemplary and useful lives.

Among the descendants of these godly parents are one Presbyterian minister, two foreign missionaries, and another preparing for the foreign missionary field, and serving the two churches with which they were connected in Wilmington are three Ruling Elders, three Deacons, and many others doing active work as private members, both in Wilmington and elsewhere.

"The Lord knoweth the days of the upright, and their inheritance shall be forever."

This corner-stone was laid in the presence of members of the family residing in Wilmington and a few friends. Simple services of Scripture reading and prayer were conducted by Rev. J. M. Wells, D. D., Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, and Rev. A. D. McClure, D. D., Pastor of St. Andrews, the two churches in which Mr. and Mrs. Sprunt served so faithfully, and from whose congregations the membership of the Church of the Covenant will be largely drawn.

With this paper the following memorials were placed in the corner-stone:

History of the First Presbyterian Church, 1817-1892,
by Rev. P. H. Hoge, D. D.
History of the First Presbyterian Church, 1892-1913,
by Rev. J. M. Wells, D. D.
History of St. Andrews Church.
Cape Fear Chronicles, by James Sprunt.
A Memorial Volume of Luola Murchison Sprunt, the beloved
Wife of James Sprunt, who died February 17, 1916.

The architects of this building were Mr. K. M. Murchison, of New York, associated with Mr. James F. Gause. Builders, Messrs. Rhodes & Underwood.

The church building was finished in every detail and completely furnished in December, 1917.

The church was organized on June 6, 1918, just one year after laying the corner-stone, by a commission appointed by Wilmington Presbytery.

Report of Commission of Wilmington Presbytery Appointed to Organize a Church at the Corner of Fifteenth and Market Streets, Wilmington, N. C., January 6, 1918

The Commission appointed by Presbytery to organize a church on the corner of Fifteenth and Market Streets, Wilmington, N. C., met in the Session Room of the new building at 7:30 P. M., Sunday evening, the 6th of January, 1918. There were present Rev. A. D. McClure, D. D., Rev. J. M. Wells, D. D., Rev. Andrew J. Howell, and Ruling Elders James Sprunt, W. H. Sprunt and B. F. Hall.

Dr. McClure acted as Moderator, and Mr. Howell was appointed Clerk.

The meeting was opened with prayer by Ruling Elder Hall.

Four persons presented themselves before the Commission, and were received upon statement of their former church membership, as members of the church to be organized.

Three persons were received upon profession of faith.

The Commission then proceeded to the Auditorium, the Moderator presiding.

The Clerk read certificates of dismission for two persons from Immanuel Presbyterian Church and five persons from Delgado Presbyterian Church. Dr. Wells read a certificate from the First Presbyterian Church, dismissing sixty-five persons.

Ruling Elder W. H. Sprunt read a certificate from St. Andrews Church, dismissing thirty-nine persons.

These testimonials were received by the Commission.

The Moderator then proposed the covenant required in Article 27 of the *Book of Church Order* and receiving the proper response, the church was declared to be duly constituted.

Mr. W. D. McCaig proposed for the new church the name of "The Church of the Covenant," which was by vote adopted.

The Committee on Organization, previously appointed at a meeting of the persons proposing to join the new church

made the following nominations for Ruling Elders, the names being read by the Moderator:

Mr. H. Lacy Hunt	Mr. F. L. Pearsall
Mr. W. A. Woods	Mr. Joseph Sharrock
Mr. C. W. Woodward	Mr. W. D. McCaig

They were unanimously elected by the congregation.

Dr. Wells, on behalf of the Committee on Organization, read the following nominations to serve as Deacons:

Mr. W. W. Love	Mr. W. P. Sprunt
Mr. J. F. Mann	Mr. O. L. Browne
Mr. L. E. Hall	Mr. C. P. Gorman
Mr. J. H. Davis	Mr. R. C. Jones
Mr. W. S. Johnson	Mr. J. O. Carr

They were unanimously elected.

Mr. C. W. Woodward proposed the names of the following persons to serve as Trustees:

Dr. R. B. Slocum	Dr. W. H. Moore
Mr. Warren S. Jones	Mr. W. D. Hall
Dr. E. R. Hart	

They were unanimously elected.

A sermon was preached by Dr. Wells from John 8:32: "And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

The Elders-elect being present, they were ordained and installed according to the *Book of Church Order*, the Moderator propounding the constitutional questions and Dr. Wells offering the ordination prayer.

The Deacons-elect being present, with the exception of Mr. O. L. Browne, they were likewise ordained and installed, the ordination prayer being offered by Mr. Howell.

The Moderator addressed suitable words of congratulation to the new officers, and also to the members of the church. He made reference to the construction and presentation of the building by Messrs. James Sprunt and W. H. Sprunt, as a memorial to their parents, and the transfer of the property to the Trustees of Wilmington Presbytery for the benefit of the Church of the Covenant. Deacon J. O.

Carr, who is also Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Presbytery, made a fitting response.

Upon dismissal of the congregation and the reading and approval of the minutes, the Commission adjourned with prayer by Ruling Elder W. H. Sprunt.

Signed:

A. D. McClure, D. D.,
Moderator.

A. J. Howell,
Clerk.

Note.—Mr. O. L. Browne, who was absent from church on account of illness, Jan. 6th, was ordained and installed a Deacon Jan. 13th.

Since organization of the church, services have been held each Sunday, and several branches of church work have been organized.

On January 13th, Rev. W. M. Baker preached and at this service the Deacons presented to the congregation the budget covering expenses for the year. The members of the congregation were called upon by the Deacons during the following week and their response was both cheerful and liberal. At this time every member is contributing to the support of the church.

Early in January the Session called as Stated Supply, Rev. Marion S. Huske, of Fayetteville, N. C., who is under appointment to the foreign field. He began his work on January 20th, and under his acceptable ministry the church is going forward in unity, gaining strength daily for the work of God's Kingdom.

"I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called,

With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love;

Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."—Ephesians 4:1-3.

Sunday School

The Ladies' Committee, of which Miss Margaret Gibson was Chairman, appointed to perfect the organization of a Sunday School, arranged for the first meeting to be held on the last Sunday of the year (December 30, 1917), at which time they presented a very carefully tabulated report, showing list of officers and teachers who had accepted positions temporarily pending permanent selection after organization. The list included nine classes, having thirteen teachers, with the four officers: Mr. C. W. Woodward, Superintendent; Mr. L. E. Hall, Assistant Superintendent; Mr. Walter P. Sprunt, Secretary and Treasurer; Mrs. W. C. Munds, Musician. The prospective enrollment totalled ninety-one persons.

A number of those on the prospect list did not become members, but notwithstanding this, on the 17th of January our enrollment was 164, showing a steady increase. Our rapid growth is also indicated by the following record of our weekly attendance:

Dec. 30th	43	Jan. 27th	116
Jan. 6th	89	Feb. 3rd	110
Jan. 13th	115	Feb. 10th	138
Jan. 20th	105	Feb. 17th	143

We regard this as an exceptionally good record, especially when we recall the large number of very cold, inclement Sundays we have had during the past two months.

Organization of Woman's Auxiliary

On January 31, 1918, the women of the Church of the Covenant met in the Sunday School room for the consideration of plans for the woman's work of the church.

Mrs. W. M. Baker, President of the Wilmington Presbyterial Auxiliary, presented the plan of organization adopted by the Woman's Advisory Committee and approved by th General Assembly of our church. This plan was unanimously adopted.

The organization to be known as the Woman's Auxiliary of the Church of the Covenant was completed, with a charter membership of thirty-one, and the election of officers as follows:

President—Mrs. J. O. Carr.
Vice-President—Mrs. R. B. Slocum.
Secretary—Mrs. E. R. Hart.
Treasurer—Mrs. C. L. Meister.

Secretaries of Causes.

Secretary of Foreign Missions—Mrs. H. L. Hunt.
Secretary of Assembly Home Missions—Mrs. R. R. Christie.
Secretary of Young Peoples' Work and Sunday School Extension—Mrs. E. Philyaw.
Secretary of Literature—Mrs. J. B. Huntington.
Secretary of Synodical Presbyterial Congregational Home Missions—Mrs. J. Sharrock.
Secretary of Christian Education and Ministerial Relief—Mrs. M. G. Burr.
Secretary of Orphanage Work—Mrs. C. W. Woodward.
Secretary of Pastor's Aid—Mrs. F. L. Pearsall.
Secretary of Social Activities—Mrs. W. S. Johnson.

Circle Chairmen.

Mrs. Walter P. Sprunt, Mrs. M. L. Gibson.
Mrs. W. H. Pemberton, Miss Rose Grant.
Girls' Auxiliary Leader—Mrs. J. K. Wise.
Junior Auxiliary Leader—Miss Blanche Parsley.

"O praise the Lord, all ye nations: praise him, all ye people. For his merciful kindness is great toward us: and the truth of the Lord endureth forever. Praise ye the Lord."— Psalm 117.

Membership of The Church of the Covenant, Wilmington, N. C.

Anders, Mrs. Ella J. — 415 North 4th Street
Anders, Mr. Leon — 1616 Orange Street
Anders, Mrs. Leon — 1616 Orange Street
Anders, Carvel King — 1616 Orange Street
Anders, Malinda — 1616 Orange Street

Bell, Mr. Paul B — 1902 Woolcott Avenue
Bell, Mrs. Paul B — 1902 Woolcott Avenue
Bellamy, Mr. Chesley C — Castle Hayne Road
Bellamy, Mrs. Chesley C — Castle Hayne Road
Birmingham, Mr. Callie C — 415 North 4th Street
Birmingham, Mrs. Callie C — 415 North 4th Street
Bordeau, Miss Jimmie A — 307 North 16th Street
Browne, Mr. O. L — 1809 Chestnut Street
Browne, Mrs. O. L — 1809 Chestnut Street
Browne, Miss Grace V — 1809 Chestnut Street
Browne, Miss Alice E — 1809 Chestnut Street
Browne, Miss Gertrude A — 1809 Chestnut Street
Burr, Mrs. Mason G — 202 North 15th Street

Carr, Mr. J. O — 1901 Market Street
Carr, Mrs. J. O — 1901 Market Street
Christie, Mr. Robert R., Jr — 114 Wrightsville Avenue
Christie, Mr. Robert R., Jr — 114 Wrightsville Avenue
Colwell, Mrs. Robert F — 1716 Orange Street

Davis, Mr. J. Holmes — 1707 Princess Street
Davis, Mr. S. J — 8 Wrightsville Avenue

Farmer, Mr. George L — 1901 Perry Avenue
Farmer, Mrs. Maria — 1901 Perry Avenue

Gibson, Mrs. R. W — 1804 Market Street
Gibson, Miss Margaret — 1804 Market Street
Gorman, Mr. C. P — 1900 Woolcott Avenue
Gorman, Mrs. C. P — 1900 Woolcott Avenue
Graham, Mr. Eugene E — Y. M. C. A.
Grant, Miss E. Rose — 205 North 13th Street

Hall, Mr. L. E — 711 Dock Street
Hall, Mrs. E. W — 1511 Orange Street
Hall, Mr. W. D — 1701 Market Street
Hall, Mrs. W. D — 1701 Market Street
Hall, Miss Katherine F — 1701 Market Street
Hart, Dr. E. R — 1613 Princess Street

Hart, Mrs. E. R.	1613 Princess Street
Howe, Mr. J. G	Wrightsville Avenue
Hubbard, Mr. T. L., Jr.	1004 Market Street
Hubbard, Mrs. T. L., Jr.	1004 Market Street
Hunt, Mr. H. Lacy	1009 Market Street
Hunt, Mrs. H. Lacy	1009 Market Street
Hunter, Mrs. J. W.	1918 Market Street
Huntington, Mr. J. B.	205 North 13th Street
Huntington, Mrs. J. B.	205 North 13th Street
Jarman, Mr. J. Frank	1910 Princess Street
Jarman, Mrs. J. Frank	1910 Princess Street
Jones, Mr. R. C.	1615 Grace Street
Jones, Mrs. R. C.	1615 Grace Street
Jones, Mr. Warren L.	1609 Princess Street
Johnson, Mr. Warren S.	1519 Chestnut Street
Johnson, Mrs. Warren S.	1519 Chestnut Street
Kelly, Mr. J. R.	1910 Perry Avenue
Kelly, Miss Annie S.	1701 Market Street
King, Mr. A. M.	307 North 16th Street
King, Mrs. A. M.	307 North 16th Street
Lewis, Mrs. Louise Wise	1713 Market Street
Little, Mr. Malcolm G.	115 North 3rd Street
Little, Mrs. Malcolm G.	115 North 3rd Street
Love, Mr. W. W.	305 North 15th Street
Love, Mrs. W. W.	305 North 15th Street
Mann, Mr. J. F.	1802 Perry Avenue
Mann, Mrs. J. F.	1802 Perry Avenue
Mann, Kenneth	1802 Perry Avenue
Mann, Miss Evelyn	1802 Perry Avenue
Mann, Mr. E.	4 Wrightsville Avenue
Mann, Mrs. Eugenia	4 Wrightsville Avenue
Mann, Miss Katie	4 Wrightsville Avenue
Mann, Miss Ethel	4 Wrightsville Avenue
Meister, Mr. Conrad L.	1915 Market Street
Meister, Mrs. Conrad L.	1915 Market Street
Moore, Dr. W. Houston	203 North 3rd Street
Moore, Mrs. W. Houston	203 North 3rd Street
Munds, Mrs. W. C.	818 Market Street
McCaig, Mr. W. D.	1711 Princess Street
McCaig, Mrs. W. D.	1711 Princess Street
McDonald, Mr. Thomas	Wrightsville Sound
McDonald, Mrs. Thomas	Wrightsville Sound
Oliver, Mrs. David S.	714 Market Street

Parsley, Miss Blanche ..... 1901 Market Street
Pearsall, Mr. F. L. ..... 1708 Chestnut Street
Pearsall, Mrs. F. L. ..... 1708 Chestnut Street
Pearsall, Mr. Horace ..... No. 24 Colonial Apartment
Pearsall, Mrs. Horace ..... No. 24 Colonial Apartment
Peschau, Mr. E. V. H. ..... 210 Wrightsville Avenue
Peschau, Mrs. E. V. H. ..... 210 Wrightsville Avenue
Pemberton, Mr. W. H. ..... 715 Dock Street
Pemberton, Mrs. W. H. ..... 715 Dock Street
Pemberton, Miss Elizabeth T. ..... 715 Dock Street
Pemberton, Miss Hattie ..... 715 Dock Street
Peterson, Mr. H. E. ..... 1818 Castle Street
Peterson, Mrs. H. E. ..... 1818 Castle Street
Philyaw, Mrs. Eugene ..... 1802 Market Street
Pigott, Mr. J. C. ..... 811 Ann Street
Pigott, Mrs. J. C. ..... 811 Ann Street
Pridgen, Mr. J. W. ..... 1707 Carolina Avenue
Pridgen, Mrs. J. W. ..... 1707 Carolina Avenue
Prease, Mrs. Thomas B. ..... 2020 Market Street

Sharrock, Mr. Joseph ..... 219 North 15th Street
Sharrock, Mrs. Joseph ..... 219 North 15th Street
Slocum, Dr. R. B. ..... 1811 Chestnut Street
Slocum, Mrs. R. B. ..... 1811 Chestnut Street
Southerland, Mr. C. S. ..... 1701 Market Street
Southerland, Mrs. F. McKoy ..... 1618 Orange Street
Sprunt, Mr. Alexander ..... 223 North 3rd Street
Sprunt, Mr. Walter P. ..... 219 North 3rd Street
Sprunt, Mrs. Walter P. ..... 219 North 3rd Street

Underwood, Mr. A. M. ..... 211 South 17th Street
Underwood, Mrs. A. M. ..... 211 South 17th Street
Underwood, Miss Pauline ..... 211 South 17th Street
Underwood, Mr. Ural Alexander ..... East Wilmington

Walton, Mr. H. E. ..... 19 South 9th Street
Walton, Mrs. H. E. ..... 19 South 9th Street
Walton, Russel Elwood ..... 19 South 9th Street
Walton, Miss Annie Gertrude ..... 19 South 9th Street
Williams, Miss Martha ..... 20 South 5th Street
Wise, Mrs. Jessie Kenan ..... 1713 Market Street
Woods, Mr. Walter A. ..... Delgado
Woods, Mrs. Walter A. ..... Delgado
Woods, Miss Neenah F. ..... Delgado
Woods, Miss Madge S. ..... Delgado
Woods, Joseph T. ..... Delgado
Woodward, Mr. C. W. ..... 1903 Princess Street
Woodville, Mr. G. H. ..... 1911 Pender Avenue
Woodville, Mrs. G. H. ..... 1911 Pender Avenue